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Application Number: 09/998,938
Amendment Dated: August 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated April 12, 2005

Listing of the Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The process of claim [[2]] 18, wherein said step of heat-soaking includes heating the pitch mixture, in an inert atmosphere.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)

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14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 17, wherein said step of heat-soaking includes heating the pitch mixture in an inert atmosphere.

17. (currently amended) A The process of claim 16, for preparing pitch with increased optically anisotropic content, comprising the steps of:
mixing from about 10% to about 70% of synthetic mesophase pitch and from about 90% to about 30% by weight of petroleum-derived isotropic pitch to prepare a pitch mixture; and heat-soaking the resultant mixture at a temperature of from about 400°C to about 450°C for wherein said step of heat-soaking is for about 5 to about 25 hours to convert isotropic pitch to optically anisotropic mesophase pitch.

18. (currently amended) A The process of claim 1, for preparing pitch with increased optically anisotropic content, comprising the steps of:
mixing a mixture consisting essentially of from about 10 % to about 70 % by weight of synthetic mesophase pitch and from about 90 % to about 30 % by weight of petroleum-derived isotropic pitch to prepare a pitch mixture; and heat-soaking the resultant pitch mixture at a temperature of from about 350° C to about 450° C for wherein said step of heat-soaking is for about 5 to about 25 to convert isotropic pitch to optically anisotropic mesophase pitch.

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